

West Lafayette Beautification Award

March 2010

This month's Beautification Award goes to Howard Zalkin, 3312 Dubois Street. Howard cut his gardening teeth in Barberry Heights, learning how to deal with heavy clay soils. Gradually his landscape matured and shady plants were needed. When they moved north to University Farm in 2001, the challenges were repeated. The soil created a bath tub effect, making the successful planting of large shrubs and trees difficult. The brisk winter winds made survival of some problematic, and what the poor drainage and winds didn't defeat, the rabbits ate. Howard has learned through trial and error to adapt his plantings to his location, planting lots of daffodils which are critter proof. He has found success in Canadian roses and native prairie plants. His perennials create a colorful palette throughout the growing season, with plenty of annuals like petunias and celosia to fill in. Howard gardens year round, with a garden room full of interesting tropical and desert plants. The Zalkins have made their garden on Dubois a standout and worthy of recognition.

